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NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

New distribution record of *Daceton boltoni* Azorsa and Sosa-Calvo, 2008 (Insecta: Hymenoptera) in the Brazilian Amazon

Ricardo Eduardo Vicente [1*], Juliane Dambroz [1] and Marliton Rocha Barreto [1,2]

1 Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso, Instituto de Ciências Naturais Humanas e Sociais. Núcleo de Estudo da Biodiversidade da Amazônia Matogrossense. Avenida Alexandre Ferronato, 1200. CEP 78557-267. Sinop, MT, Brazil.
2 Instituto Nacional de Ciências e Tecnologia de Estudos Integrados da Biodiversidade Amazônica, INCT - CENBAM/CNPq/MCT. Avenida André Araújo, 2936. CEP 69011-970. Manaus, AM, Brazil.
* Corresponding author. E-mail: *ricardomyrmex@gmail.com*

ABSTRACT: The presence of *Daceton boltoni* in Cotriguaçu municipality, state of Mato Grosso, southern Amazon is reported. Workers of *D. boltoni* were collected manually in nests on the branches of three Caxeta trees (*Simarouba amara* Aubl. - Simaroubaceae) from a reforestation area. In the same location where *D. boltoni* was recorded, *Daceton armigerum* (Latreille 1802) workers have also been collected, corroborating the hypothesis that these are sympatric species. This is the first record of the occurrence of this species in Mato Grosso state and the second in the Brazilian Amazon.

The *Daceton* Perty (Dacetini: Myrmicinae) genus was first described in 1833 and ever since has been monotypic. These ants are arboreal predators (Fernández 2003) and highly polymorphic (Moffet and Tobin 1991). *Daceton armigerum* (Latreille 1802), the first species of this genus to be described, has often been collected in South American forests (Silvestre *et al.* 2003; Fernández and Sendoya 2004; Goitía and Jaffé 2009). In 2008, a review on the referred genus revealed a new species: *Daceton boltoni* (Azorsa and Sosa-Calvo 2008). Since then, there have been no reports on the new species. However, in May (2011) *D. boltoni* were reported nesting in branches of three Caxeta trees (*Simarouba amara* Aubl. - Simaroubaceae) from a reforestation area in Northwest Mato Grosso (Brazil), on São Nicolau Farm (09°51'16" S, 58°14'57" W) (Figure 1), municipally of Cotriguaçu. Local climate is humid tropical, with a mean annual temperature of 24°C, 85% humidity, and 2300 mm of rain (Veloso *et al*. 1991; Camargo *et al*. 2010). The local vegetation is classified as Open Ombrophylous Forest and Dense Ombrophylous Forest (Veloso *et al*. 1991), that covers 80% percent of the farm area and the other 20% is covered by reforestations (Silveira 2011). Among the species that comprise the forest plantation we can state Teak trees (*Tectona grandis* L. F. - Verbenaceae) and other 28 native forest essences, such as *Simarouba amara* where *D. boltoni* was discovered (personal communication). Some workers (26) of *D. boltoni* (Figure 2) were collected manually, identified and stored in the Acervo Biológico da Amazônia Meridional (ABAM) collection at Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso

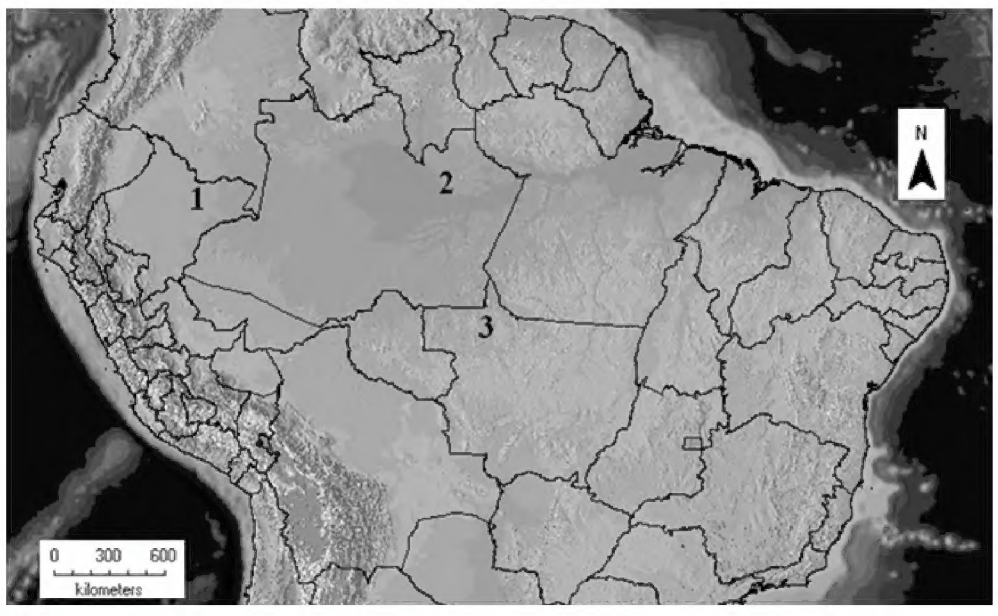

FIGURE 1. Distribution of *D. boltoni* ant. Points 1 and 2 represent bibliographic record (AZORSA and SOSA-CALVO 2008). 1 = Loreto, Peru; 2 = Manaus, Brazil; 3 = the new occurrence record: Cotriguaçu, Brazil. Map: DAMBROZ, J.

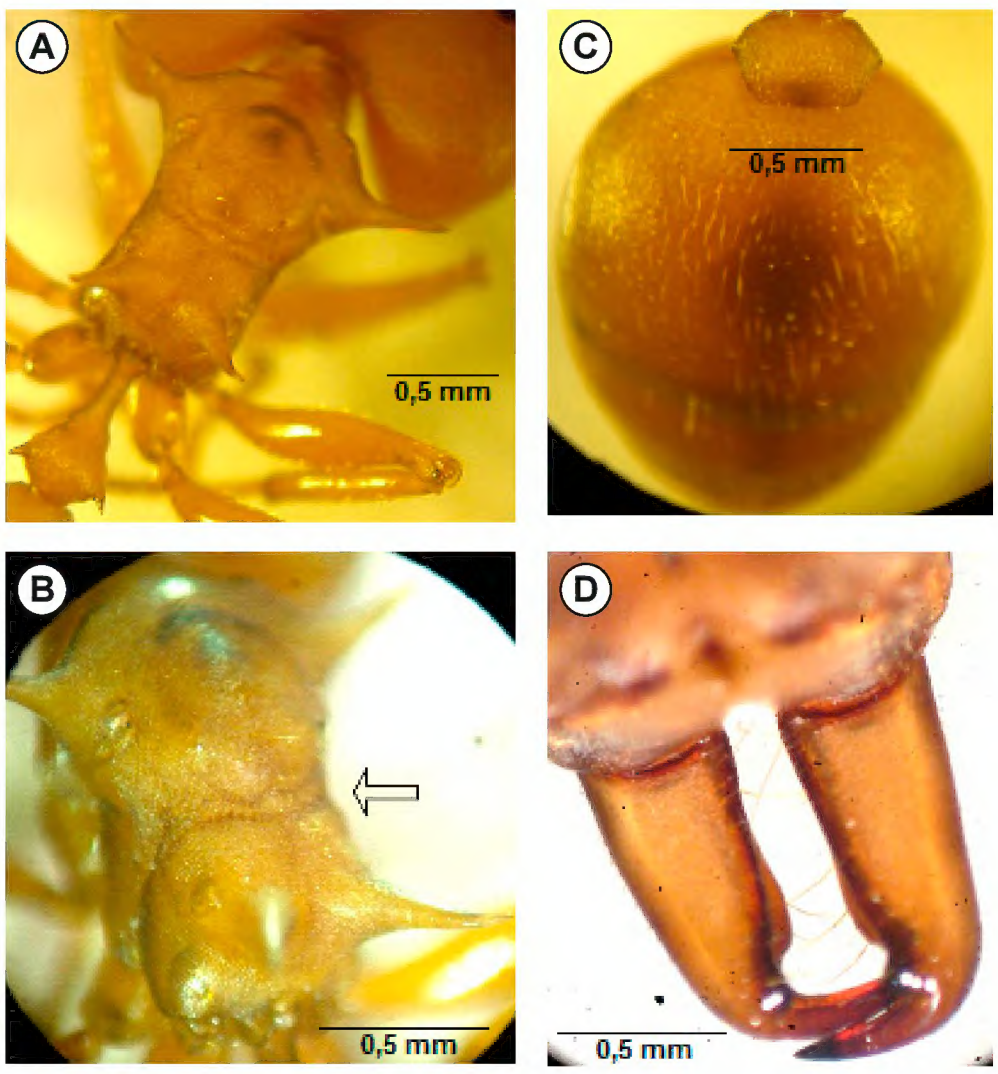

FIGURE 2. *D. boltoni*, main characters as highlighted in the key by AZORSA and SOSA-CALVO (2008). a) Mesosoma and petiole (dorsal view), b) Mesosoma with close in matanotal groove (dorsal view), c) Gaster (dorsal view), d) Mandibles (dorsal view).

(*Voucher*: ABAM - E 116). In the same location where *D. boltoni* was recorded in the present report, workers of *D. armigerum* have also been collected on the litter extracted with Winkler and on the understory with beating tray method (Monteiro *et al.* 2011). This reinforces the hypothesis that they are sympatric species as proposed by Azorsa and Sosa-Calvo (2008). Because *D. boltoni* has been known to occur only in Loreto (Peru) and Manaus (Brazil) (Azorsa and Sosa-Calvo 2008), this new occurrence, recorded about 800 km far away from the closest point (Manaus), is a considerable increase in the distribution of this species of which little is known.

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